Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 /173 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP:BJMOHLER
APPROVED BY EB/OT:CWSCHMIDT
EB/OT/GCP:MGOLDMAN
ARA/CAR:GHIGH
ARA/CAR:TDUNN
ARA/ECP:SFOUTS
STR:JAMCNAMARA
EB/OT/GCP:DTMORRISON

----- 065700

R 262317Z AUG 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, DR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GODR OFFICIAL FERNANDO PERICHE

REFS: SANTO 03213, SANTO 03379

- 1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DOMINICAN CENTER FOR EXPORT PROMOTION (CEDOPEX), FERNANDO PERICHE, ACCOMPANIED BY CEDOPEX ADVISER RAMON PEREZ AND OCTAVIO FIALLO, DOMINICAN EMBASSY ATTACHE, CALLED AT DEPARTMENT AUGUST 23 TO DISCUSS TRADE QUESTIONS.
- 2. PERICHE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN THE PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATUS OF THE U.S. GSP PRODUCT LIST. HE WAS ASSURED THAT

SUCH LIST WAS NOW BEING PREPARED AND THAT USG WAS TAKING LATIN AMERICAN PRIORITIES IN THE AREA OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES VERY SERIOUSLY. DOMINICANS INFORMED US THAT THEIR GSP WANT-LIST WHICH WE HAD RECEIVED VIA OAS SECRETARIAT IS INCOMPLETE. PERICHE PROMISED TO SUBMIT COMPLETE LIST ASAP VIA EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO.

- 3. DEPT. OFFICER TOLD PERICHE THAT THE TRADE REFORM ACT WAS STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WAS EXPECTED BY EARLY FALL, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG INTEREST IN THE BILL.
- 4. DOMINICANS ALSO RAISED TRADE PROBLEM THEY HAVE BEEN

EXPERIENCING WITH PUERTO RICO OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR QUOTE TRADE AGREEMENT UNQUOTE. CLAIMING THAT BARRIERS RAISED BY PUERTO RICO TO CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT WERE IMPORTANT TO DR, PERICHE OBSERVED THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT WIDELY KNOWN OR PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD BY USG OFFICIALS. HE ASSERTED THAT PUERTO RICO HAS ESTABLISHED QUOTA SYSTEM TO REGU-LATE AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS. WHILE REGULATIONS WERE NOT DIRECTED TOWARD SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, THEY HAVE HAD VERY SEVERE EFFECT ON DOMINICAN TRADE WITH PUERTO RICO. SUPPLIERS FROM DR AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE GOTTEN AROUND REGULATION BY SHIPPING GOODS THROUGH MIAMI SO THAT PRODUCTS ENTER PUERTO RICO AS INTERNAL COMMERCE, BUT THIS IS COSTLY. IN DOMINICAN VIEW, IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REGULATIONS, TIMING AND METHOD OF DETERMINING OUOTA FIGURES AND A HIGH INSPECTION CHARGE CONSTITUTE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. THEY CLAIMED GODR EFFORTS OVER THE LAST THREEYEARS TO MEET WITH PUERTO RICANS AND RESOLVE DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. PERICHE IMPLIED THAT DR IS NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RAISING MATTER IN GATT. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE THIS PROBLEM AND SEE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE DONE TO REMEDY IT. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY COMMENTS.

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5. MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH STR OFFICIALS COVERED SAME POINTS. IN THAT MEETING PERICHE SAID COMPLAINT OVER DISPUTE WITH PUERTO RICO WOULD BE RAISED IN GATT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS)

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Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: STATE

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Review Authority: martinml

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 25 SEP 2002

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Review Exemptions: n/a
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To: SANTO DOMINGO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005